



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

## Meeting Agenda

### Town Council

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk (860)441-6640  
Town Manager (860)441-6630

*Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Peter J. Bartinik, Jr., Heather Sherman Bond, Catherine Kolnaski,  
Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, John F. Scott, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter.*

Tuesday, October 02, 2007

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

### REGULAR MEETING

#### I. ROLL CALL

#### II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

#### III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2007-0229 Proclamation Honoring Juanita Johnson

Proclamation - TC

#### IV. CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

This is the portion of the Council Agenda where the Council welcomes comments from citizens. Each presentation should be limited to ten minutes or less, and citizens should, if possible, submit written comments. Presentations should be related to matters pertinent to Groton. Town Councilors will only ask questions in order to clarify the speaker's presentation and can respond during the Responses to Citizens' Petitions portion of the Town Council meeting. Citizens should make their presentations from the lectern and state their names and addresses for the record.

#### V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

#### VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under Item VI (Consent Calendar) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion of these items will take place, unless cause is shown prior to the time Council votes on the motion to adopt.

##### a. Approval of Minutes

2007-0233 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

Resolution - Consent

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of September 18, 2007 are hereby accepted and approved.

##### b. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2007-0140 Town Property at Buddington/Old Buddington Roads

Referral

2007-0220 Resolution Approving Amount of Bonds to be Issued in 2008

Referral

2007-0226 Pfizer Community Affairs Group Grant

Referral

2007-0227 Department of Homeland Security Grant - Portable Video Surveillance Equipment

Referral

2007-0231 Establishment of Thames Street Rehabilitation Study Committee

Referral

2007-0234 Department of Education Youth Services Enhancement Grant

Referral

**c. Special Trust Fund Contributions****2007-0230 Special Trust Fund Contributions****Resolution - Consent****RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS**

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Gary Palmer - \$30.00 - Library Discretionary

Various Donations - \$313.05 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Jean H. Simpson - \$30.00 - Social Services Discretionary

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church - \$85.00 - Social Services Discretionary

**VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)****a. Town Councilors****b. Representative Town Meeting****c. Clerk of the Council****d. Town Manager****e. Town Attorney****VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS****a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman O'Beirne****b. Economic Development - Chairman Bond****c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski****d. Environment & Recreation - Chairman Sheets****e. Finance - Chairman Schmidt****f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Scott****g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter****h. Public Works - Chairman Bartinik****i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Watson****IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS****X. NEW BUSINESS****2007-0140 Town Property at Buddington/Old Buddington Roads****Referral****RESOLUTION TO CONVEY TOWN PROPERTY ON NORTH ROAD, BUDDINGTON ROAD AND OLD BUDDINGTON ROAD TO CITY OF GROTON UTILITIES**

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton owns two parcels of land, amounting to approximately 1.8 acres, on North Road, Buddington Road and Old Buddington Road that were acquired by tax foreclosure, and

WHEREAS, based on the report of the Town's Property Review Team, Town Manager Ronald LeBlanc and the Office of Planning and Development Services recommended in 1995 that these properties be offered to Groton Utilities for purchase, before being offered for public sale, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Town Council approved the sales of these properties to Groton Utilities in 1995 for a total price of \$19,208.82, but the sale was not consummated, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton up to this date has not had plans for using the subject land for any Town purposes, and

WHEREAS, Groton Utilities has represented that their ownership of the land would enhance the security and safety of their reservoirs, and

WHEREAS, Groton Utilities and the City of Groton recognize that passive recreational access to watershed and reservoir properties is desired by Town residents and have agreed that they will continue in each future year to admit residents of Groton periodically to their Ledyard reservoir lands for passive recreation, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Groton sell the parcels of land on North Road, Buddington Road and North Road, designated with PIN Numbers 169807790529E and 169910366848E to Groton Utilities for the total sum of \$25,000.

**Legislative History**

**5/21/2007 Mayor Referred Town Council Committee of the W**

**8/14/2007 Town Council Committee of the Whole Discussed**

*Mayor Watson provided a brief history on this issue and the parcel which was obtained by the Town through tax foreclosure and noted that he made this referral. The City of Groton would like to purchase the property for back taxes. Councilor O'Beirne noted some older history when the property was fenced off by Groton Utilities and there were discussions about making the parcel a park. Councilor O'Beirne asked for more research on the history of the property and discussions with the City of Groton.*

*Town Manager Oefinger noted he spent hours researching this issue and found that there is a single property on Buddington Road, which was last discussed in 2002 in association with a potential walking path along Route 117. There is \$11,526.03 in back taxes owed. Councilor O'Beirne asked for the appraised or assessed value of the land.*

**8/28/2007 Town Council Committee of the Whole Discussed**

*Councilor O'Beirne asked why the Council needs to take action on this at this time. He feels this is the Town's last "bargaining chip" to obtain recreational access to the reservoir property. Councilor Scott suggested putting this item on the agenda for a joint meeting with the City of Groton.*

**9/18/2007 Town Council Committee of the Whole Recommended for a Resolution**

**2007-0220 Resolution Approving Amount of Bonds to be Issued in 2008 Referral**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING AMOUNT OF BONDS TO BE SOLD**

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton authorized \$26,100,000 school bonds for a new elementary school (Catherine Kolnaski Elementary School) pursuant to Ordinance No. 258, and

WHEREAS, \$350,000 principal amount of such bonds were sold as part of \$5,005,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2005, of the Town, and upon the issuance of such bonds the total amount of such bonds remaining authorized but unissued was reduced to \$25,750,000, and

WHEREAS, \$6,000,000 principal amount of such bonds were sold as part of \$16,570,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2006, of the Town, and upon the issuance of such bonds and the receipt of grants in the amount of \$859,791, the total amount of such bonds remaining authorized but unissued was reduced to \$18,890,209, and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 258 authorizes the Town Council to determine the amount of bonds to be sold, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$1,500,000 bonds be sold pursuant to said Ordinance.

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton authorized \$20,800,000 school bonds for a new elementary school on the site of the former Freeman-Hathaway Elementary School (Northeast Academy) pursuant to Ordinance No. 259, and

WHEREAS, \$310,000 principal amount of such bonds were sold as part of \$5,005,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2005, of the Town, and upon the issuance of such bonds the total amount of such bonds remaining authorized but unissued was reduced to \$20,490,000, and

WHEREAS, \$4,000,000 principal amount of such bonds were sold as part of \$16,570,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2006, of the Town, and upon the issuance of such bonds and the receipt of grants in the amount of \$749,460 the total amount of such bonds remaining authorized but unissued was reduced to \$15,740,540, and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 259 authorizes the Town Council to determine the amount of bonds to be sold, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$3,200,000 bonds be sold pursuant to said Ordinance.

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton authorized \$45,000,000 school bonds for Phase I of renovations and additions to Fitch High School pursuant to Ordinance No. 260, and

WHEREAS, \$640,000 principal amount of such bonds were sold as part of \$5,005,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2005, of the Town, and upon the issuance of such bonds the total amount of such bonds remaining authorized but unissued was reduced to \$42,445,000, and

WHEREAS, \$5,000,000 principal amount of such bonds were sold as part of \$16,570,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2006, of the Town, and upon the issuance of such bonds and the receipt of grants in the amount of \$1,464,674, the total amount of such bonds remaining authorized but unissued was reduced to \$37,895,353, and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 260 authorizes the Town Council to determine the amount of bonds to be sold, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$10,750,000 bonds be sold pursuant to said Ordinance.

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton authorized \$3,833,986 general purpose bonds for South Pleasant Valley Road improvements pursuant to Ordinance No. 248, and

WHEREAS, \$1,300,000 principal amount of such bonds were sold as part of \$5,005,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2005, of the Town, and upon the issuance of such bonds and the application of paydowns in the amount of \$12,250, the total amount of such bonds remaining authorized but unissued was reduced to \$2,521,736, and

WHEREAS, \$1,570,000 principal amount of such bonds were sold as part of \$16,570,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2006, of the Town, and upon the issuance of such bonds the total amount of such bonds remaining authorized but unissued was reduced to \$951,736, and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 248 authorizes the Town Council to determine the amount of bonds to be sold, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$50,000 bonds be sold pursuant to said Ordinance.

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton authorized \$6,381,200 sewer bonds for Fort Hill sewer rehabilitation pursuant to Ordinance No. 265, and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 265 authorizes the Town Council to determine the amount of bonds to be sold, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$3,000,000 bonds be sold pursuant to said Ordinance.

**Legislative History**

9/11/2007	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of the W
2007-0226	Pfizer Community Affairs Group Grant		Referral
2007-0227	Department of Homeland Security Grant - Portable Video Surveillance Equipment		Referral
2007-0231	Establishment of Thames Street Rehabilitation Study Committee		Referral
2007-0234	Department of Education Youth Services Enhancement Grant		Referral

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**